

Date Mailed September 18, 2001
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BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation for  
Authorization to Increase Electric and Natural Gas Rates

6690-UR-113

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

<b>Direct Testimony Due:</b>	<b>Monday, September 24, 2001 – Noon</b>
<b>Rebuttal Testimony Due:</b>	<b>Monday, October 1, 2001 – Noon</b>
<b>Surrebuttal Testimony Due:</b>	<b>Monday, October 8, 2001 - Noon</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 11, 2001 – 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Hearing Location:</b>	<b>Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI</b>

On April 12, 2001, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) filed an application pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 196.03, 196.20, and 196.37, for authority to increase rates for electric and natural gas services. This application contained WPSC's financial and jurisdictional cost information. WPSC's filing requests an \$86.8 million (16.1 percent) increase for electric operations and a \$13.5 million (4.5 percent) increase for gas operations to be effective January 1, 2002. On May 15, 2001, WPSC filed its electric and gas cost-of-service studies and rate design information.

On August 28, 2001, a prehearing conference was held to determine the issues that will be addressed in this docket and to establish a schedule for the hearing. Among the issues raised by the parties during the prehearing conference were revenue requirement issues, cost-of-service studies, rate design, and tariff issues for the electric and gas utilities.

In addition, at the prehearing conference, WPSC indicated its intention to request interim rate relief because the Commission will likely not issue an order authorizing permanent rate increases until the end of the first quarter of 2002. On September 7, 2001, WPSC filed an "Application of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation for Interim Rate Increase in Electric and Natural Gas Rates" along with supplemental direct testimony in support of an interim rate increase. The application states, in part, that the "If the Commission is not able to authorize increases in WPSC's permanent rates until April 2002, WPSC will lose an opportunity to recover up to 25% of its 2002 electric revenue requirement and up to 47% of its 2002 gas revenue requirement."

A hearing will be held, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 196.20, 196.39, 196.395, and 196.70, to address WPSC's interim rate relief request. The scope of this hearing will be strictly limited to:

(1) the amount of revenue requirement deficiency; (2) whether the applicant should receive interim electric and natural gas rate increases; (3) the appropriate electric and natural gas rate designs for an interim increase; and (4) the appropriate refund mechanism if final rate increases are authorized that are less than interim increases authorized.

The utility is responsible for giving notice to its customers of the filing of its application with the Commission and, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.73, for producing proof of notice at the hearing.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that a hearing will be held beginning on Thursday, October 11, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin, and continuing at times to be set by the presiding Administrative Law Judge. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3) no later than 14 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the case coordinator Ms. Candice Spanjar at (608) 267-9537.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Edward S. Marion  
Assistant Secretary to the Commission